

resembles a Minivet's nest, but is broader and less ornate, though equally hard to find. Occasionally, though rarely, the nest is built in the forked twig of a 'pipul' (*Ficus religiosa*), but I have only obtained one thus placed, which I feel sure was that of a pair which I had previously robbed in a *Mimosa* tree close by."

A pair of eggs in my collection, taken by Mr. Kemp, are exactly like those of the Common Iora. They are the only specimens that I have seen, but others have been taken by two or three collectors, all of whom describe the nest and eggs as being similar to those of *Ægithina typhia*.

95. CEPHALOPYRUS FLAMMICEPS.

Blanford, F. B. Ind. i. p. 247.

The eggs of this little bird have now often been taken and are well known. In colour they are pure unspotted blue and very like those of *Zosterops* (White-eye), but decidedly darker, while they are narrower ovals. The nest is placed in a tiny hole of some tree, and Dr. Coltart has found it in a dead bamboo.

[To be continued.]

VI.—*On a small Collection of Birds from the Vicinity of Lake Menzalah, in the Delta of Egypt.* By W. L. S. LOAT, F.Z.S.

DURING the spring of 1903 I spent a couple of months in collecting birds at the north-west corner of Lake Menzalah, staying at a small fishing-village called Sheik Shuttah, about five miles from Damietta.

Lake Menzalah, the largest of the four great lakes of Lower Egypt, is situated in the extreme north-east corner of the Delta and close to Port Said. The water is for the most part brackish, except at those points where fresh water enters the lake, chiefly during the rise of the Nile. The land in the vicinity of the village varies a good deal in character. The shore of the Lake is flat and more or less

bare; then comes a stretch of wet ground with a little low-growing vegetation and a few scattered pools. The village itself is placed on a low sandy mound. About half a mile away, and some two hundred yards from the edge of the Lake, is a patch of cultivated ground about five acres in extent, divided by trenches and surrounded by a raised path with a border of bushes and a few stunted trees, which form a favourite haunt for Warblers and small birds. In the following pages this piece of ground will be simply referred to as the "patch of cultivated land." Half a mile from the lake are several pools surrounded by tall reeds. To the north-west is a wide stretch of more or less sandy ground covered with rough grass, with every here and there bare patches and large shallow pools. About a mile from the village and in the direction of Damietta is the cultivated land.

In the arrangement of the species I have followed Capt. Shelley's 'Handbook of the Birds of Egypt,' but I have generally used the names of the B. O. U. List for the British species. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were identified, but not obtained.

1. *TURDUS MUSICUS. *Song-Thrush.*

On March 11th, while walking through some fields of broad beans, a large number of these birds were put up.

2. *TURDUS MERULA. *Blackbird.*

On March 11th a single specimen of this species was seen.

3. MONTICOLA SAXATILIS. *Rock-Thrush.*

A female was obtained on April 19th.

4. SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE. *Wheatear.*

Common, especially in the vicinity of the village.

5. SAXICOLA SALTATRIX. *Ménétries's Wheatear.*

Fairly numerous, and, like the former species, generally to be found on the outskirts of the village.

6. SAXICOLA STAPAZINA.

"*Saxicola stapazina* Linn.;" Salvadori, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 77.

7. SAXICOLA MELANOLEUCA.

For the identification of this species, and also that of the Lark, I am indebted to Dr. P. L. Selater.

8. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA. *Whin-Chat*.

♂. April 21st. ♀. April 24th.

These, the only examples seen during my stay in this part of Egypt, were found near the patch of cultivated land.

9. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA. *Stone-Chat*.

♂. March 17th.

Very few individuals of this species were observed.

10. RUTICILLA PHENICURA. *Redstart*.

♂. April 7th. 3 ♂. April 19th. 2 ♂. April 20th.

The first specimen seen and obtained was on April 7th, but towards the end of that month the birds became more numerous. So far as my observations went they were all males.

11. CYANECULA SUECICA. *Blue-throated Warbler*.

Under this heading I have included both the "red-spotted" and "white-spotted" forms. While collecting in this district I obtained an interesting series of specimens, including both of the above-mentioned forms and many that were intermediate. I found the "red-spotted" form much the more abundant, while only a single example of the pure "white-spotted" was obtained. All the nineteen specimens were shot within a small area, viz., on the paths surrounding the patch of cultivated land. At the beginning of March fair numbers were seen, but later they increased, though they dropped again considerably towards the end of the month. By the middle of April they had, practically speaking, disappeared. Below is a list of the specimens obtained, to which are added a few notes on the variations observed.

1. ♂. March 9th.—Dark reddish orange spot, a few white feathers at the extreme upper part of the spot, below these again a few white feathers tinged with colour, which increases in intensity towards the middle of the spot.

2. March 12th.—Dark reddish orange spot, some of the feathers at its lower edge having their tips glossy white.
3. ♂. „ 17th.—Reddish orange spot.
4. ♂. „ 17th.—Whitish spot, most of the feathers tinged with pale reddish orange, and some in the middle slightly marked with black.
5. „ 17th.—Pale reddish orange spot.
6. ♀. „ 17th.—Centre of the throat dull white, no colour.
7. ♀. „ 17th.—Whitish spot tinged with reddish orange.
8. ♂. „ 18th.—Reddish orange spot.
9. ♂. „ 19th.—Pure white spot, feathers of a glossy texture.
10. ♂. „ 19th.—Reddish orange spot.
11. ♂. „ 19th.—Reddish orange spot.
12. ♀. „ 21st.—White spot distinctly tinged with reddish orange.
13. ♀. „ 21st.—Reddish orange spot.
14. ♂. „ 22nd.—Well-defined reddish orange spot.
15. ♂. „ 22nd.—Glossy white spot, a few of the feathers distinctly tinged with reddish orange.
16. „ 28th.—Centre of the throat dull white.
17. ♀. „ 30th.—Large spots of reddish orange colour.
18. ♂. „ 30th.—Dark reddish orange spot.
19. ♀. April 15th.—Large pale reddish orange spot.

12. PHILOMELA LUSCINIA. *Nightingale.*

♂. April 19th. ♀. April 24th.

13. ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS. *Reed-Warbler.*

♀. April 14th. ♀. April 15th.

Found in a clump of reeds surrounding a pool.

14. ACROCEPHALUS PALUSTRIS. *Marsh-Warbler.*

♀. April 14th.

Shot at the same spot as the last species.

15. *ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS. *Clamorous Sedge-Warbler.*

The characteristic note of this bird was often heard from the thick clumps of reeds surrounding the pools.

16. CISTICOLA SCHENICOLA. *Fan-tail Warbler.*

17. DRYMÆCA GRACILIS. *Graceful Warbler.*

I found this species very numerous amongst the low-growing vegetation on one of the islands in the Lake.

18. PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX. *Wood-Warbler.*

2 ♂s. April 20th.

Not uncommon amongst the low bushes surrounding the patch of cultivated land.

19. PHYLLOSCOPUS BONELLII. *Bonelli's Warbler.*

♀. March 26th. ♀. March 30th.

Found at the same place as the last species.

20. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS. *Chiffchaff.*

This was the most numerous of the Warblers, and was found frequenting the same spot as the last two species. It took its departure about the middle of April.

21. SYLVIA RUEPPELLI. *Rüppell's Warbler.*

This species was first seen and obtained on March 19th, from that time onwards till the end of the month it was not uncommon, but disappeared from the locality towards the end of April.

22. SYLVIA CURRUCA. *Lesser Whitethroat.*

During the latter half of March this bird was not uncommon amongst the low bushes surrounding the patch of cultivated land.

23. MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA. *Pied Flycatcher.*

♂ & ♀. April 24th.

Only seen on one occasion.

24. *HIRUNDO RIOCOURII. *Oriental Chimney-Swallow.*

Fairly common.

25. MOTACILLA ALBA. *White Wagtail.*

On referring to my notes I find that on March 10th this species was fairly common, on March 20th large numbers had arrived; while three days later they had considerably diminished, and on the 14th of April they had almost disappeared.

26. MOTACILLA FLAVA. *Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail.*

Much less numerous than the preceding species. Was first obtained on March 9th; also a male and female on the 19th of the following month.

27. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS. *Tree-Pipit.*

A few specimens were obtained during the latter half of April.

28. ANTHUS PRATENSIS. *Meadow-Pipit.*

A few of these Pipits were generally to be found on a stretch of damp ground which was sparsely covered with grass and weeds. On the 20th of March there was a noticeable increase in point of numbers, but three days later most of them had disappeared.

29. ANTHUS CERVINUS. *Red-throated Pipit.*

The most numerous of the Pipits met with. The specimens obtained about the middle of April had, practically speaking, finished their moult.

30. ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA. *Water-Pipit.*

This was a rather uncommon species, and I only met with it at one spot, viz., on a stretch of damp ground more or less overgrown with grass and weeds. Both the specimens, which were obtained on the 10th of March, were in full moult.

31. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS. *Tawny Pipit.*

♂. March 10th. ♂. April 7th.

I met with but few examples of this Pipit, which kept to the more sandy parts of the land, over which were scattered tufts of rough grass.

32. ANTHUS RICHARDI. *Richard's Pipit.*

♂. April 21st.

In Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' no mention is made of this species. I first met with it on some sandy ground sparsely covered with grass, but saw it again on two or three subsequent occasions, the last time on the 23rd of April. Its long undulating flight is not unlike that of a Wagtail.

33. ALAUDA CRISTATA. *Crested Lark.*

A common species, and always to be met with on the road leading from the village to Damietta. All those seen belonged to the dark variety.

34. ALAUDA ARVENSIS. *Sky-Lark.*

Two females of this Lark were obtained on the same ground as that frequented by the Tawny Pipits.

35. CALANDRELLA MINOR. *Short-toed Lark.*

This species was fairly common during March, frequenting the open sandy ground near the village and generally to be found in small parties.

36. LINOTA CANNABINA. *Linnet.*

♂. March 11th.

A number of these birds were seen on the cultivated land about a mile from the village.

37. ORIOLUS GALBULA. *Golden Oriole.*

♀. April 22nd.

A single individual was brought to me by a native on this date.

38. STURNUS VULGARIS. *Starling.*

2 ♀. March 19th.

A few small flocks were seen on the cultivated land.

39. IYNX TORQUILLA. *Wryneck.*

♂. March 11th.

This specimen was shot in a tree near the cultivated land.

40. CUCULUS CANORUS. *Cuckoo.*

The Cuckoo was first obtained on April 21st, and on the same day a native brought to me eight adults and an immature bird, all of which had been shot in the same locality: from which I should infer that this species was then just beginning to arrive from the south.

41. ALCEDO ISPIDA. *Common Kingfisher.*

Several of these birds frequented the trenches surrounding the patch of cultivated land.

42. *CERYLE RUDIS. *Black-and-White Kingfisher.*

One or two were generally to be seen hunting for small fishes in the shallow water at the edge of the Lake.

43. CORACIAS GARRULUS. *Roller.*

♂. April 23rd.

A single specimen was obtained near Danietta on the above date.

44. CAPRIMULGUS ÆGYPTIUS. *Egyptian Goatsucker.*

♀ April 4th and ♂ 20th.

These birds were put up from a piece of sandy ground covered with tufts of rough grass.

45. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS. *Marsh-Harrier.*

A rather uncommon species in the district.

46. CIRCUS PALLIDUS. *Pale-chested Harrier.*

Not common.

47. FALCO PEREGRINUS. *Peregrine Falcon.*

A female was obtained on the 12th of April, this being the only occasion on which this species was met with.

48. FALCO VESPERTINUS. *Red-legged Falcon.*

A male and female were obtained on the 22nd of April.

49. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS. *Parasitic Kite.*

Uncommon in this locality.

50. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS. *Quail.*

A single specimen was seen on the 16th of March.

51. SQUATAROLA HELVETICA. *Grey Plover.*

♂. April 16th.

This species was seen on three or four occasions feeding along the edge of the Lake. On the 23rd of April there were still a few about.

52. ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA. *Kentish Plover.*

This Plover was fairly abundant, and frequented the sandy ground and shallow pools near the Lake, but I do not remember ever having seen it along the edge of the latter, like the other small Waders.

53. ÆGIALITIS HIATICOLA. *Ring-Plover.*

A fairly common species along the edge of the Lake and in the vicinity of the pools near by.

54. *ÆGIALITIS CURONICA.* *Little Ring-Plover.*

Common, and often found in the company of the last two species.

55. *NUMENIUS ARQUATA.* *Curlew.*

♂. March 13th.

Only seen on three or four occasions.

56. *LIMOSA EGOCEPHALA.* *Black-tailed Godwit.*

Not an uncommon bird, generally frequenting the larger pools.

57. *MACHETES PUGNAX.* *Ruff.*

A fairly numerous species, generally found in the vicinity of pools and on flooded land. Several individuals were seen with nearly pure white heads and necks.

58. **GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS.* *Common Snipe.*

This bird was occasionally met with during the earlier part of March.

59. **GALLINAGO GALLINULA.* *Jack Snipe.*

A single specimen was seen on the 30th of March.

60. *RHYNCHLEA CAPENSIS.* *Painted Snipe.*

Examples of this species were occasionally brought to me by natives from Damietta.

61. *TRINGA MINUTA.* *Little Stint.*

Very numerous during March, but by the 17th of April there were very few to be seen.

62. *TRINGA TEMMINCKI.* *Temminck's Stint.*

I obtained a specimen on the 10th of March.

63. *TRINGA ALPINA.* *Dunlin.*

This species was fairly numerous. One or two large flocks were seen, but by the 17th of April it was comparatively scarce.

64. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS.* *Redshank.*

Common and generally found by shallow pools, often in company with Stints and Ring-Plovers.

65. **TOTANUS CANESCENS.* *Greenshank.*

This bird was seen on one or two occasions.

66. TOTANUS GLAREOLA. *Wood-Sandpiper.*

One or two individuals were generally to be found on a piece of wet ground which was under partial cultivation.

67. HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS. *Black-winged Stilt.*

A couple were brought to me by a native, who had obtained them near Damietta.

68. *RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA. *Avocet.*

A single bird was seen on the 1st of April.

69. *PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS. *Glossy Ibis.*

I saw a couple of these birds standing in a pool about half a mile from the village.

70. PLATALEA LEUCORODIA. *Spoonbill.*

Not uncommon on Lake Menzalah.

71. *ARDEA CINEREA. *Common Heron.*72. *ARDEA GARZETTA. *Little Egret.*

Met with on two or three occasions standing in shallow water near the edge of the Lake.

73. ARDEA RALLOIDES. *Squacco Heron.*

Only occasionally seen in the locality.

74. NYCTICORAX GRISEUS. *Night-Heron.*

I bought a specimen of this bird from a native, who had obtained it near Damietta; but I never came across it in the district round the village, owing no doubt to the entire absence of large trees in which it could roost during the day-time.

75. PHENICOPTERUS ANTIQUORUM. *Flamingo.*

Flamingos were very numerous when I first arrived in this locality at the beginning of March, but towards the end of April their numbers were considerably less; possibly they had moved to another part of the Lake.

76. GALLINULA CHLOROPUS. *Moor-hen.*

I only obtained a single specimen of this species.

77. *FULICA ATRA.* Coot.

Large numbers frequent the Lake.

During the winter vast flocks of Ducks of various species frequent Lake Menzalah, thousands being caught annually by means of nets. During April their numbers are considerably diminished. As I only went out on the Lake on one occasion, no attempt is made in this paper to give a complete list of the species which frequent this large extent of water; therefore mention is only made of those which I either met with near the edge of the Lake, or which were exposed for sale in the local market.

78. **ANAS BOSCHAS.* Wild Duck.

One flock was seen on a large pool not far from the Lake.

79. **DAFILA ACUTA.* Pintail Duck.

Fairly common during the earlier part of March. As the birds were generally seen in pairs, I inferred that the mating-season had commenced.

80. **RHYNCHASPIS CLYPEATA.* Shoveler.

Common near the edge of the Lake.

81. **QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.* Teal.

Not uncommon.

82. *MARECA PENELOPE.* Wigeon.

83. *FULIGULA FERINA.* Pochard.

84. *FULIGULA RUFINA.* Red-crested Pochard.

On the 29th of March two live males of this species were brought to me by a native. They had been netted on the Lake about a month previously and had been kept in confinement. This Duck is considered rare and is much admired by the rich natives, who keep it in a domesticated condition. Its local name is "Won'nas." Capt. Shelley makes no mention of having met with this species.

85. *FULIGULA CRISTATA.* Tufted Duck.

Common.

86. PHALACROCORAX AFRICANUS. *Long-tailed Cormorant.*

Ogilvie-Grant, Cat. B. xxvi. p. 407.

Shelley does not mention this species in the 'Birds of Egypt,' but there is a specimen in the British Museum obtained by him in the Fayoum. I saw a number for sale at the fish-market just outside Damietta on the 5th of March.

87. STERNA CASPIA. *Caspian Tern.*

On the 18th of April a couple were seen, one of which was obtained.

88. STERNA MINUTA. *Lesser Tern.*

During my stay I heard a great many references made to a small Tern, which, from the description, I concluded must belong to this species. It is much sought after by the native gunners, as they receive a good price for its skin from the plume-dealers of Damietta. Its local name is "Abu Da'a," and it regularly arrives in this part of Egypt towards the end of April. Mr. Gurney ('Rambles of a Naturalist,' p. 233) considers that this species should be looked upon as a summer, rather than a winter, visitor.

89. LARUS FUSCUS. *Lesser Black-backed Gull.*

A few were occasionally seen near the edge of the Lake.

90. PODICIPES NIGRICOLLIS. *Eared Grebe.*

During March I obtained several of these birds which had been netted on the Lake.

VII.—Notes on the Parrots. (Part III.)

By T. SALVADORI, H.M.B.O.U.*

Fam. IV. CACATUIDÆ (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xx. p. 101).

This Family is generally recognised as quite distinct among the Psittaci. The species are not numerous, and none of the forms described since the publication of the 'Catalogue' stand on a very solid foundation.

* Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 542.